

Western Australia had an estimated population of 1,883,860 in 2000.

Although it has the largest land area of any Australian State or Territory, Western Australia accounts for less than 10% of Australia's population.

The State capital is Perth, founded on 12 August 1829. In June 2000 the estimated population of Perth was 1,381,127.

This brochure provides a snapshot of Western Australia; more detail can be found in the variety of publications released by the ABS.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN RELATION TO AUSTRALIA

Area	units	Period	Western Australia	% of Australian total
	'000 sq km		2 526	32.9
Coastline	km		12 500	34.0
Demography				
Estimated resident population	'000	2000	1 883.9	9.8
Births registered	no.	1999	24 849	10.0
Deaths registered (including infant deaths)	no.	1999	10 877	8.5
Marriages registered	no.	1999	10 197	8.9
Divorces granted	no.	1999	5 301	10.1
Labour Force				
Employed persons	'000	2000	931.6	10.2
Unemployed persons	'000	2000	62.3	10.0
Agriculture				
Gross value of production	\$m	1999	4 270	14.8
Area of establishments	'000 ha	1999	113 099	24.9
Manufacturing				
Persons employed	'000	1998-99	72.7	7.9
Turnover	\$m	1998-99	17 770.5	8.0
International Trade				
Imports	\$m	1999-00	9 517	8.6
Exports	\$m	1999-00	25 424	26.1

POPULATIONS

Estimated resident population (ERP) at 30 June

		1998	1999	2000
Western Australia				
Males	'000	r920.5	r935.3	948.6
Females	'000	r908.6	r922.3	935.2
Persons	'000	1 829.1	r1 857.6	1 883.9
Perth Statistical Division	'000	1 340.3	r1 361.7	1 381.1
Rest of State	'000	488.8	r495.9	502.7

CENSUS POPULATION

		1986	1991	1996
Age groups (proportion of population)				
Under 15 years	%	24.2	23.6	22.4
15–19 years	%	8.6	7.8	7.4
20–59 years	%	54.0	54.9	56.2
60–64 years	%	3.9	3.9	3.6
65 years and over	%	9.3	9.9	10.4
Birthplace (proportion of population)				
Australia	%	70.9	69.2	68.3
Europe —				
UK and Ireland	%	13.8	13.6	12.4
Italy	%	2.0	1.7	1.5
Other	%	4.3	4.2	2.4
Asia	%	3.6	4.7	4.1
New Zealand	%	1.8	2.2	2.3
Other	%	3.7	4.4	9.0
Major urban centres				
Albany	no.	16 316	18 826	20 493
Bunbury	no.	23 031	24 003	24 945
Geraldton	no.	21 726	24 361	25 243
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	no.	22 232	25 016	28 087
Mandurah	no.	14 699	23 343	35 945
Perth	no.	883 716	1 018 702	1 096 829
Port Hedland	no.	13 069	11 344	12 846

VITAL STATISTICS

		1997	1998	1999
Live Births registered	no.	24 776	24 717	24 849
Deaths registered	no.	10 807	10 664	10 877
Marriages registered	no.	10 456	10 705	10 197
Divorces granted	no.	5 046	5 268	5 301
Crude rate (per 1 000 mean ERP)				
Births		13.8	13.5	13.4
Deaths		6.0	5.8	5.9
Marriages		5.8	5.8	5.5
Divorces		2.8	2.9	2.8

EDUCATION

		1998	1999	2000
Students				
Government	no.	226 583	227 232	p225 767
Non-government	no.	87 444	89 337	p91 996
Schools				
Government	no.	764	765	p766
Non-government	no.	264	273	p277

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: Nov(a)

		1998	1999	2000
Males	\$	733.7	746.1	777.2
Females	\$	414.7	425.3	453.1
Persons	\$	571.9	581.4	616.1
(a) Total earnings, Trend				

EMPLOYMENT — Nov(a)

		1998	1999	2000
Total labour force	'000	959.2	990.4	993.9
Employed persons	'000	891.3	921.9	931.6
Unemployed persons	'000	67.9	65.5	62.3
Unemployment rate	%	7.1	6.6	6.3
(a) Trend				

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

		1998	1999	2000
Agriculture, forestry, etc	'000	45.8	42.9	44.0
Mining	'000	31.1	30.7	34.0
Manufacturing	'000	91.8	94.6	93.0
Electricity, gas & water	'000	6.9	9.2	9.0
Construction	'000	62.7	75.8	83.0
Wholesale and retail trade	'000	179.4	194.5	175.0
Accommodation	'000	40.7	39.0	45.0
Transport and storage	'000	41.1	44.4	46.0
Communication	'000	14.5	12.5	14.0
Finance, insurance, property & business	'000	129.2	128.2	133.0
Government administration and defence	'000	35.8	38.1	38.0
Education	'000	65.8	65.4	69.0
Health and community services	'000	82.3	86.5	87.0
Culture, recreation & personal services	'000	61.3	64.7	61.0

STATE GOVERNMENT — Consolidated Public Sector Cashflow Statement

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Taxes received	\$m	2 993	2 987	3 149
Receipts from sales of goods and services	\$m	7 346	6 539	6 659
Grants and subsidies received	\$m	3 276	3 489	3 777
Other receipts	\$m	1 188	1 073	1 048
Total cash receipts from operating activities	\$m	14 803	14 089	14 633
Payments for goods and services	\$m	-11 189	-10 342	-11 074
Grants and subsidies paid	\$m	-1 213	-1 449	-1 567
Interest paid	\$m	-1 149	-864	-826
Other payments	\$m	—	-86	-77
Total cash payments for operating activities	\$m	-13 551	-12 740	-13 544
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$m	2 508	1 349	1 089
Purchases of new non-financial assets	\$m	-2 068	-1 850	-2 358
Sales of non-financial assets	\$m	2 547	489	661
Total net cash flows from investments in non-financial assets	\$m	479	-1 361	-1 697
Net cash flows from investments in financial assets	\$m	-261	-294	-364
Net advances received	\$m	-145	-20	-49
Net borrowing	\$m	-1 535	977	890
Distributions paid	\$m	—	2	—
Other financing (net)	\$m	327	62	20
Net cash flows from financing activities	\$m	-1 353	1 021	861
Net increase/decrease in cash held	\$m	-117	-10	-112
Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)	\$m	1731	-10	-609

HOUSING FINANCE — Owner occupied

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Secured finance commitments to individuals for construction of dwellings	\$m	1 210.8	1 385.6	1 504.5
Purchase of —				
Newly erected dwellings	\$m	227.7	215.1	240.6
Established dwellings(a)	\$m	5 045.0	5 718.5	6 819.3
Alterations and additions	\$m	283.2	287.1	323.2
(a) includes refinancing				

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES (cents)

<i>Perth, December quarter</i>	units	1998	1999	2000
Milk carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	135	146	142
Cheese, processed, sliced wrapped	500g	335	351	335
Butter	500g	196	199	205
Bread, white loaf, sliced(a)	650g	196	220	225
Rump steak	1kg	1 018	1 191	1 249
Silverside, corned	1kg	686	683	709
Lamb, leg	1kg	589	569	572
Chicken, frozen	1kg	349	353	363
Bacon, middle rashers	250g pkt	359	395	374
Sausages	1kg	398	542	542
Potatoes	1kg	135	152	152
Tomatoes	1kg	398	298	313
Eggs(b)	1 doz	246	281	299
Sugar, white	2kg	254	262	251
Tea bags(c)	180g	264	334	373
Coffee, instant	150g jar	679	644	631
Margarine, poly-unsaturated	500g	169	179	201
(a) 650g loaf in 2000, 680g loaf in 1998 and 1999.				
(b) 61g eggs in 2000 and 1999, 50g eggs in 1998.				
(c) 180g packet in 2000 and 1999, 250g packet in 1998.				

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

<i>Perth — Base: 1989–90 = 100.0</i>	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Food	122.9	128.0	129.7
Clothing	106.2	105.3	104.2
Housing	89.1	90.5	94.7
Household equipment and operation	113.6	113.6	113.1
Transportation	121.4	122.3	129.1
Tobacco and alcohol	155.2	159.2	165.7
Health and personal care	147.0	149.0	148.8
Recreation and education	118.7	121.1	122.6
All groups	118.0	120.1	122.9

BUILDING

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
New residential buildings				
Approved	no.	18 354	r20 614	22 852
Completed	no.	16 244	r17 659	19 391
Value of new residential buildings				
Approved	\$m	1 856	r2 211	2 671
Completed	\$m	r1 719	r1 893	2 212
Total value of buildings				
Approved	\$m	2 943	r3 544	4 077
Completed	\$m	3 044	r3 078	3 620

MINING (source ABARE)

Production		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Iron ore	'000 tonnes	r156 973	r146 221	p151 500
Gold	kilograms	540 510	r218 200	p206 800
Diamonds	'000 carats	43 046	35 910	p29 525
Crude oil	megalitres	17 561	r15 493	p17 924
Natural gas	gigalitres	17 707	r18 336	p18 560

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

		1996-97	1998-99	1999-00
Persons employed as at 30 June	'000	72.9	r74.6	72.7
Turnover	\$m	r16 713	r17 499	17 770

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Imports	\$m	r8 605	r9 012	9 517
Exports	\$m	22 765	21 777	25 424
Exports to				
Japan	\$m	5 391	5 086	6 576
United Kingdom	\$m	868	1 420	1 065
Singapore	\$m	1 308	1 320	1 902
Imports from				
Japan	\$m	r1 014	r1 116	985
U.S.A.	\$m	r1 246	r1 655	1 587
United Kingdom	\$m	r471	467	470
Major commodities exported				
Iron ore	\$m	3 766	3 797	3 765
Wool	\$m	654	409	468
Wheat	\$m	1 601	1 693	1 568
Gold bullion	\$m	4 508	4 069	3 008
Petroleum and petroleum products	\$m	2 047	1 672	3 751

AGRICULTURE

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Gross value of production				
Wheat for grain	\$m	1 621.1	1 557.4	1599.5
Livestock slaughtering and other disposals	\$m	685.1	698.8	763.7
Total agriculture	\$m	4 196.4	4 397.9	4 270.0
Livestock at 31 March	\$m			
Cattle for	\$m			
Milk		121.9	124.0	114.0
Meat	\$m	1 786.8	1 848.0	1 817
Sheep and lambs	\$m	27 821.1	27 476.0	26 378
Pigs	\$m	297.4	303.0	277
Production				
Wheat for grain	\$m	7 516	7 725	8 170
Wool	\$m	160	154	153
Beef and veal	\$m	92	102	105
Mutton and lamb	\$m	88	90	79
Pig meat	\$m	39	35	38

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OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Total Overseas Arrivals	no.	814 000	840 010	876 750
Total Overseas Departures	no.	810 300	830 880	882 120
Short term visitor arrivals by air				
Indonesia	no.	34 370	28 580	21 710
Japan	no.	32 090	33 770	40 670
New Zealand	no.	26 320	27 270	29 060
Singapore	no.	73 120	64 590	73 230
United Kingdom & Ireland	no.	80 940	91 490	96 050
All countries	no.	400 810	408 120	441 090

TRANSPORT

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
New motor vehicles registrations				
Motor cars and station wagons	no.	67 675	r66 574	54 697
Motor cycles	no.	3 103	r3 160	3 210
Other	no.	13 781	r13 197	12 285
Total	no.	84 559	r82 931	70 192
Vehicles on register				
Motor cars and station wagons	no.	956 898	1 004 089	1 018 036
Motor cycles	no.	39 318	41 909	42 834
Other	no.	273 365	281 205	283 939
Total	no.	1 269 581	1 327 203	1 344 809

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

mm	— millimetres	'000	— thousand
\$m	— million dollars	\$	— dollars
km	— kilometres	n.y.a.	— not yet available
p	— preliminary	kW.h	— kilowatt hours
no.	— number	%	— per cent
'000m³	— thousand metre cubed	n.p.	— not published
r	— revised		

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